

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application.

The Examiner asserted that the application contains the following groups of claims, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1:

Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to a fluorine-atom-containing polymerizable unsaturated-monomer represented by formula (1a) or (1b);

Group II, claim 5, drawn to a method for producing a fluorine-atom-containing polymerizable unsaturated-monomer represented by formula (1a);

Group III, claim 6, drawn to a method for producing a fluorine-atom-containing polymerizable unsaturated-monomer represented by formula (1b);

Group IV, claims 7-11, drawn to a polymer having a repeated unit corresponding to a fluorine-atom-containing polymerizable unsaturated-monomer represented by formulas (1a) or (1b); and

Group V, claim 12-13, drawn to a photoresist resin composition at least the polymer (of Group IV) and a photo acid generator.

Applicants respectfully traverse. Each pending claim requires a monomer of formula (1a) or (1b), whether as a monomer or method of making the monomer, or as part of a polymer or as a photoresist resin composition containing the polymer. This represents a special technical feature. The Examiner has made no attempt to prove that such a special technical feature does not represent a contribution over the prior art. Simple reference to a Search Report does not shift the burden of persuasion to Applicants. Thus, for this reason alone, the present claims have unity of invention.

However, in order to be fully responsive, for the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group V, Claims 12-13.

The Examiner has also required an election of species in the event Group V is elected. Applicants hereby elect Species (2), which is a monomer of formula (1b). It is Applicants understanding that this election will serve as a starting point for search and examination purposes only. Upon indication of allowable subject matter for the elected species, the Examiner must expand the search to include non-elected species with the intent of finding the generic claim allowable.

In view of the above, favorable action on the merits is respectfully solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner, Registration No. 32,181 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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